

Summary Landscape Proof of Evidence

In respect of Horn Crag Quarry,

Land off Fishbeck Lane, Silsden, West Yorkshire,
BD20 0NR.

On behalf of Mr. Andrew Calvert.

Date: 22nd January 2024 | Pegasus Ref: P23-1784

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Author: Radek Chanas M Eng Landscape Architecture, MA Garden and Landscape History CMLI



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1. Summary and Conclusions

- 1.1. Having reviewed the application documents including the LVA for the appeal scheme, and in the light of the findings of my own landscape character and visual assessment, and also my own review and analysis of published assessments verified on site, and having considered these with regard to the Statement of Case, I have come to the following conclusions.
- 1.2. I have considered the appeal site and its landscape context, with reference to the published assessments and my own site visit, and have concluded that the appeal site and the local landscape are of medium value and medium susceptibility to the appeal scheme. Consequently, I have determined that the sensitivity of the host landscape to the appeal scheme would be medium.
- 1.3. I have also concluded that the appeal site is not prominent in local or long range views, and cannot be regarded as local landmark. During my site visit my eyes were drawn towards the highly elevated and dramatic Addingham High Moor and the valley landscape, particularly that to the south east where the contrast between the moorland and valley landscape was the strongest, and south towards Silsden, backclothed by the undulating pastoral landscape.
- 1.4. I have considered the landscape character of the locality and concluded that the appeal scheme can be accommodated in the receiving landscape without any undue harm to its character, landscape attributes and landscape criteria. The appeal scheme is small scale, concealed by the landform and vegetation, when visible views would be transient and geographically localised or seen as part of a wide expansive panorama which would act to reduce the degree of change. The characteristics of the appeal site and nature of the appeal scheme would result in limited change to the baseline character, and the phased operational stage of the appeal scheme would create limited incremental change over the course of some 20 years, which would be temporary and reversible.
- 1.5. With regard the visual amenity, I have considered all of the LVA viewpoints (**CD 01-14**) and have walked the associated PRowS. Subsequently, I have concluded that the overwhelming majority of the visual receptors would not experience material harm with the visual effects at the lower end of the spectrum, temporary and time limited, and reversible. I have concluded, however, that the residential receptors within Cringles and those associated with the closest PRowS located in the immediate vicinity of the appeal site would be subject to temporary material visual harm, which would be temporary and reversible. Such harm, however, can be mitigated against.
- 1.6. For the reasons stated above and those set out in my evidence, my view as an independent expert witness to this inquiry, is that the local undesignated landscape and its perception, and the visual amenity of recreational receptors is not affected, or effects are limited and highly localised and largely non material. Following the restoration proposals, the appeal scheme would positively contribute the conservation, management, and enhancement of the local landscape.

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

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